

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 18, 2001 LB 598

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Senator Suttle, members of the body. I would like to talk now about...more about the evaluation assessment process, and a concern that I have about what's happened. And this is relatively new. It's in the last couple of years. The actual shutdown of the Geneva evaluation didn't happen until 1999. So we're talking some recent history here. Let me tell you a story that was told to me by a judge about one particular evaluation that was presented to his court for a youth. The youth had been having sex...I mean, not...well, probably yes, but having...(laugh) meant to say substance abuse problems. I don't know about the sex part. But anyway, substance abuse problems, and had been put in inpatient...I haven't ever done that before. So, it's probably something for the sine die tape. But anyway, the issue was, having substance abuse problems, and was put in a treatment center, had been there for many months, and had completed the treatment. The youth then went back to his family, and had been living at home for about several months, and doing pretty well, but had a relapse. The same facility where he was for nearly a year was also the contractor that had the evaluation. And their recommendation to the...from the department to the court was,...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...put him back in inpatient treatment for six months. Well, the parents were pretty shocked by that. And the parents were concerned, the judge was concerned, saying, this shouldn't really have to have inpatient treatment. But, remember, the same provider who provided the treatment also recommended he go back for six months. So the parents in this situation had the money to be able to pay for a separate evaluation, which was then presented to the court. They went to another provider. The provider said, this is a child that can go to outpatient. We think we can address it. There's no need to go back to an expensive inpatient treatment, and there's no reason to take the kid out of school, out of his community, put him back in inpatient treatment, when we think it can be addressed. And that's what the court did. And that's why there's some differences of opinion among all the people involved about those...this evaluation process.